REMARKS

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al. Claims 8 and 11 recite "curing the coating at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F for a time period of between about one half hour and one and one half hours." The Examiner acknowledged that Keener '230 does not explicitly teach the coating should be cured under the claimed conditions, but indicated that Keener '230 teaches that the rivet and applied coating may be heated together to a suitable temperature in order to achieve heat aging and curing in a single step, referring to Keener '230 column 7, beginning at line 19. At column 7, lines 23-44, Keener '230 teaches advantages of departing from the curing treatment specified by the coating manufacturer to achieve desired properties of the aluminum alloy base metal. At column 6, lines 61-63, and column 9, lines 63-65, Keener '230 discloses a standard elevated curing temperature for the preferred coating material of about 400°F for 1 hour; and at column 10, lines 1-12, Keener '230 teaches a modified curing cycle of 375°F for 45 minutes. As pointed out in Keener '230 at column 10, lines 4-12, even with the modified curing cycle of 375°F for 45 minutes, the curing operation has the effect of tending to overage the aluminum alloy, and it is necessary to have an additional cold working operation in order to offset the overaging effect of the curing conditions employed.

As is discussed in the specification of the present application at paragraph [0003], "once an aluminum alloy rivet has been heat treated, additional heating of the rivet to a

temperature above about 300°F to cure a coating applied to the rivet, will impair the shear strength of the rivet." The overaging effect produced by the curing process in Keener '230 is therefore exactly the problem addressed by the present invention, which does not require any additional cold working operations to offset the overaging produced in Keener '230. Keener '230 recognizes the problem of the overaging effect, but compensates for this in an entirely different way than is disclosed and claimed in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230 does not teach, disclose or suggest curing a coating on heat treated rivets at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F, as is claimed.

Kishikawa et al. was cited as teaching adding polyvinyl butyral to a phenolic coating of Keener '230. It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al., taken individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest curing a coating on heat treated rivets at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 8-13 are novel and inventive over Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al., taken individually or in combination, and that the rejection of Claims 8-13 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al. should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al. Nonweiler et al. was cited as teaching grit blasting with aluminum oxide, and Kaneko et al. was cited as teaching a method of improving corrosion resistance of an aluminum substrate by treatments such as washing the

substrate with a solution containing chromic acid and fluorides. Claims 1 and 15 recite "curing the coating at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F for a time period of between about one half hour and one and one half hours." It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al., taken individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest curing a coating on heat treated rivets at a temperature between about 230°F and 290°F, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are novel and inventive over Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al., taken individually or in combination, and that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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